(c) whether Government propose to provide cement lintel;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Balconies of some Type-II quarters in 'H' & 'J' blocks, Kali Bari Marg have been provided with cement sheet roofs. They cannot be said to be in a worn out condition. Whenever complaints of sheets getting damaged are received, they are attended to and repair works are carried out.

Open balconies had been provided in the original design. The building structure has been designed accordingly. Some of the balconies have since been covered, using cement sheets as roofing material, as it is very light in weight. There is no proposal to provide cement lintel in place of cement sheets as that would add considerable weight to the structure which is not considered advisable from structural safety point of view.

National Urban Transport Policy

2804. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of all the States have met in the capital on June, 29 to discuss and finalise the National Urban Transport Policy keeping in view the worsening transport situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the objective of the policy is to ensure safe, affordable, comfortable, quick reliable and sustainable access to residents of the cities seeking jobs, education, recreation, etc.;

(c) if so, to what extent this transport policy was accepted by the Chief Ministers; and

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir, a conference of State Chief Ministers and

Transport Ministers was organised by the Ministry of Urban Development on 29th June, 2005 to discuss the Draft National Urban Transport Policy.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was general consensus on the proposed policy and on the urgent need for its implementation. Suggestions were made to relax the eligibility criteria for supporting Mass Transit Systems in cities and to review the Motor Vehicles Act to enable it to better address Urban Transport requirements.

(d) The implementation of such a policy, after its approval, is an ongoing process.

Safe drinking water supply in Assam

2805. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan/programme of providing safe drinking water supply to all the district towns of Assam;

(b) whether such schemes have already been provided in some towns of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ministry of Urban Development is assisting the State Governments for urban water supply projects through the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for small towns with a population less than 20,000 as per 1991/2001 census. The proposed National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) will cover infrastructure projects including water supply projects in all the cities/towns.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of the towns covered in Assam under AUWSP and funds released are given in the Statement.